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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) An automation system device~~ee~~[[,]] for a machine-tool, a production machine or a robot, comprising:
 - at least two components connected via a data link, and
 - at least two sub-components associatable with a component,
 - wherein a data message, which includes data for the components and a plurality of data locations, can be sent between the at least two components, and
 - wherein the number of the data locations within a data message is adjustable and each of the data locations is associatable with one of the sub-components.
2. (Original) The automation system of claim 1, wherein the data message is subdivided into channels, with the data of a channel being associated with a sub-component.
3. (Original) The automation system of claim 1, wherein the data locations have a standardized content.

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4. (Original) The automation system of claim 3, wherein the standardized content comprises at least one of an actual value, a setpoint, a control word and a parameter.
5. (Currently amended) The automation system of claim 1, wherein a sub-component includes an axis ~~or a transmitter~~.
6. (Original) The automation system of claim 1, wherein one component represents a master within the data link and at least one second component represents a slave within the data link.
7. (Original) The automation system of claim 1, wherein the data message has a programmable variable length or a maximum length, or both.
8. (Original) The automation system of claim 1, and further comprising a message selection table that includes messages selected from the group consisting of standard messages and user-defined messages.

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9. (Original) A method for programming a data communication of an automation system, for a machine-tool, a production machine or a robot, the system including at least two components connected via a data link and exchanging a data message that includes data locations and data for a component, comprising:
 - adjusting the number of the data locations of the data message for those components that have at least two sub-components, and
 - associating each of the data locations with a respective one of the sub-components in one-to-one correspondence.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, and further including the step of subdividing the data message into channels using object separators, wherein the data message in a channel refers to a sub-component.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the data location includes a standardized content.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the standardized content comprises at least one of an actual value, a setpoint, a control word and a parameter.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein a sub-component is programmed to represent an axis, ~~a transmitter, a cam connection, a terminal or another object.~~
14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein one component within the data communication is programmed as a master and at least one other component is programmed as a slave.
15. (Currently amended) A method for programming a data communication of an automation system, for a machine-tool, a production machine or a robot, the system including at least two components connected via a data link and exchanging a data message that includes data locations and data for a component, comprising the steps of:
- programming the automation system and the at least two components with an engineering system,
 - associating two sub-components with at least one component, said at least one component or sub-component including a predefined function,
 - automatically composing the data message, and
 - automatically associating a data location with one of the sub-components when the data message is automatically composed,
- wherein the number of the data locations within a data message is adjustable.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15, and further including the step of subdividing the data message into channels using object separators, wherein the data message in a channel refers to a sub-component.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the data location includes a standardized content.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the standardized content comprises at least one of an actual value, a setpoint, a control word and a parameter.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein a sub-component is programmed to represent an axis, ~~a transmitter, a cam connection, a terminal or another object.~~
20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein one component within the data communication is programmed as a master and at least one other component is programmed as a slave.

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21. (Original) An engineering system for programming a data communication in an automation system, the automation system including at least two components connected via a data link and exchanging a data message that includes data locations and data for a component, said programming including the steps of:
- adjusting the number of the data locations of the data message for those components that have at least two sub-components, and
 - associating each of the data locations with a respective one of the sub-components in one-to-one correspondence.
22. (Currently amended) An engineering system for programming a data communication in an automation system, the automation system including at least two components connected via a data link and exchanging a data message that includes data locations and data for a component, said programming including the steps of:
- associating two sub-components with at least one component, said at least one component or sub-component including a predefined function,
 - automatically composing the data message, and
 - automatically associating a data location with one of the sub-components when the data message is automatically composed,
- wherein the number of the data locations within a data message is adjustable.